Comparable performance of exports and imports

890. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the details of the comparable performance of export and imports during the current year in comparison with the same period for the last year and the action being taken to meet the export target for the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Details of export and imports during April to June, 1995 the latest period for which trade data are available in the current year, and those for the corresponding period last year are as under:—

	April-June		
	US$ Million		% Growth
	1994	1995	
Exports	5613.59	7167.50	27.7
Imports	5811.53	7991.70	37.5

The export target for the year 1995-96 envisages around 18% to 20% growth in US Dollar terms over the exports valued at US$ 26223 million during 1994-95. Export promotion is a continuous process. Steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with the trade, industry and other concerned institutions. The Government is striving to make the environment of policy and procedures more export-friendly. Among the measures taken for export promotion, mention may be made about simplification of Export-Import Policy and Procedures, increasing export production, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality improvement and technological upgradation, improvement in infrastructure and actively involving State Governments in export promotion. In the current year, an Annual Action Plan has been formulated which, interalia, covers commodity specific measures for export promotion.

Fixing of maximum retail price by manufacturers

891. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'maximum retail price' printed on the packaged items is fixed arbitrarily by the manufacturers;

(b) if so, whether Government have reviewed the existing laws and whether there is any proposal to bring suitable amendments therein to safeguard the interests of the consumers; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) The manufacturer makes a declaration of maximum retail sale price in the form of "MRP..... inclusive of all taxes" on a package in accordance with the provisions of "the Standards of Weights & Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules; 1997". These rules are intended to safeguard the consumers interests to the extent that no retail dealer can charge a price higher than the printed MRP without attracting the penal provisions made under the rules. These rules are not intended to control or regulate the retail sale prices.

Scope of revamped public distribution system

892. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to revamp PDS scope launched in 1992 in tribal mountatinous and desert areas of the country "in a big way" as reported in the Indian Express dated 19th July, 1995;

(b) the states which will be the chief beneficiaries indicating the present availa-